

# GREATER WATERBURY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP



February 18, 2016

To: The Connecticut Appropriations Committee

**RE: Community Care Team Funding**

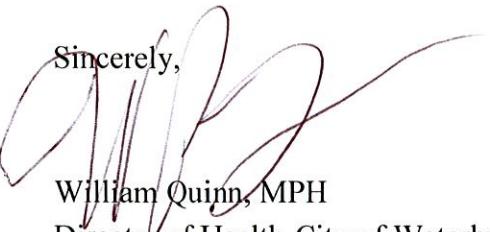
On behalf of the many local and regional healthcare, social service and community organizations that comprise the Greater Waterbury Health Improvement Partnership (GWHIP), I am writing to you to express the critical need for funding for Acute and Emergency Behavioral Health Grants, more specifically the establishment of Community Care Teams (CCT). As an active consortium of community providers in the Greater Waterbury area, our primary focus has been to address the four pressing health concerns identified by area residents in the 2013 and 2016 Community Needs Health Assessments which prioritized: Access to Care, and Mental Health/Substance Abuse, as well as Chronic Diseases (Obesity, Heart Disease, Diabetes and Asthma) and Tobacco Use. Community Care Teams are necessary to better help patients who over-utilize the two hospital Emergency Departments, while also helping the two hospitals to provide patients with access to necessary community services.

GWHIP feels strongly that this funding will provide the revenue necessary to bring our current level of healthcare navigation to the next level by the introduction of a Community Care Team outreach worker. The Greater Waterbury Area is ahead of the rest of the state in that we currently have intensive, acute care patient navigation services provided by the Waterbury Health Access Program, who assures that the needs of acute care clients are adequately met. With the introduction of the CCT Patient Navigator, the intense, multi-faceted, complex needs of the chronically ill clients can be adequately monitored and addressed.

The Waterbury Health Access Program is an established consortium of community care providers that provides a natural framework for the addition of an intensive CCT Patient Navigator. With the security and privacy issues already in place, a CCT worker would hit the ground running in the Greater Waterbury Area. Attached, please find a list of organizations committed to participating on the CCT Greater Waterbury.

If providing patient stories would be helpful please feel free to contact: Waterbury Health Access Program Coordinator, Leslie Swiderski RN, LCSW @ 203-573-7689.

Sincerely,



William Quinn, MPH

Director of Health-City of Waterbury

Chair, Greater Waterbury Health Improvement Partnership

## Waterbury Community Care Team

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